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Letter dated 11 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, issued on 11 November 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 11 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan, issued on 11 November 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union shares the assessment on the Sudan set out in the report of the Secretary-General, as called for in Security Council resolutions 1556 (2004) and 1564 (2004).

The European Union is deeply concerned about the findings of the Secretary-General on the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation.

The European Union joins the United Nations in welcoming the progress made in the north-south peace process and the deployment of the expanded African Union force in Darfur. The European Union urges all parties to the Darfur conflict to cooperate fully with the African Union to ensure a secure and stable environment. The European Union will continue to provide the African Union with full support for its mission in Darfur.

The European Union welcomes the progress achieved at the peace talks in Abuja. The signing of the humanitarian and security protocol is an important step forward in reaching a sustainable solution for the crisis in Darfur. We urge all parties to keep this momentum and to reach a political solution to the conflict in the Sudan as a matter of immediate priority.

The European Union recognizes the need for continued humanitarian assistance and will sustain its contributions in support of those affected by the conflict in Darfur, Sudan.

The European Union recalls the European Council of 4 and 5 November 2004 and its earlier Council conclusions, as well as Security Council resolutions 1556 (2004) and 1564 (2004), and confirms its full commitment to contribute to peace and reconciliation processes in the Sudan as a matter of great priority. In this regard, the European Union does not exclude the use of sanctions against all parties to the conflict.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia,[a] the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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[a] Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilization and Association Process.